

Look inside for the Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month on programmable thermostats!



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Bitter Cold Leaves Behind Higher Bills

Since March is here and Spring is just around the corner, we've all been trying to put those colder than normal temperatures of January and early February behind us. However, if there is one place that the memories of those chilling temperatures seem to linger it is in your electric and heating fuel bills.

It seems we are all experiencing the aftermath of the polar vortex. Keep in mind when you open your bill that it reflects a meter reading taken 30 or more days ago. Though extra cold temperatures reared their wintry heads a few weeks ago, members are just now receiving their electric bills for that period of time. And it ain't pretty, folks. Bills are high!

It's important to remember that your kWh usage is higher now because the outside temperature was lower then; therefore, your heating system spent longer time in operation, regardless of the indoor thermostat setting. Even if you lowered your thermostat, it is likely that your heating system was still running because of the extremely low temperatures.

Not only was the heating system working overtime, but many of us were home from work because we had children who were out of school due to school closings from the snow, and that added to our home energy usage.

The television was on all day, comfort foods were being prepared on the stove, and the washer and dryer were seeing a little extra work thanks to all of those wet clothes the kids peeled off after playing in the snow.

If you have any questions about your bill or your home energy usage, please contact us at 252-445-5111.



Charles H. Guerry

*Executive Vice President
& General Manager*

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Business Hours

8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

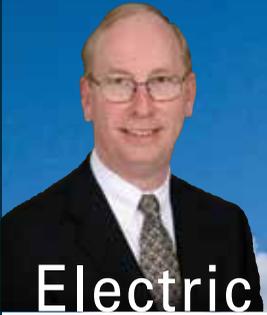
Locations

Enfield/Macon: (252) 445-5111

www.halifaxemc.com

Tell Us...

Halifax EMC is your electric cooperative. Your comments and questions are very important to us. Please tell us how we may improve our service. Return your comments/questions along with your payment, or e-mail them to bamartin@halifaxemc.com. Specific account questions will be answered personally. Remember to include your account number for these types of questions.



“Right-of-way maintenance keeps tree limbs and other obstacles away from high-voltage power lines.”

Electric Lines

by Charles H. Guerry

Executive Vice President & General Manager

Spring gives us a chance to thaw out after a chilly winter. I take advantage of longer daylight hours by doing a little spring cleaning and yard work. But the seasonal shift isn't all good news. The rapid change from harsh, cold air to warmer temperatures can trigger severe weather. To protect our lines and keep power flowing safely to your home, Halifax EMC maintains our rights-of-way. Think of it as spring cleaning for power lines.

Right-of-way (ROW) maintenance keeps tree limbs and other obstacles away from high-voltage power lines. It's an important part of the service we provide to you, our members, for three reasons: safety, reliability, and cost.

Our primary concern is the safety of our workers and members. Properly maintained ROW keeps our crews safe when they are restoring service and maintaining our system. Keeping trees clear of power lines also keeps your family safe. From making sure a child's tree house doesn't hit power lines to creating a safe environment while doing yard work, a well-maintained ROW helps avoid tragedy.

Power lines are a constant part of our landscape; it's easy to forget they are around. We work hard to keep the area around our lines clear, but we need your help. Be alert this spring. Don't plant trees or tall vegetation under power lines, and keep an eye

out for power lines when working in your yard.

If severe spring weather blows through, a well-maintained ROW leads to fewer outages and faster response time. Trees are less of a threat. When trees do fall, crews are able to restore service more quickly than they could with poorly maintained areas.

As a not-for-profit company, Halifax EMC, strives to keep costs affordable for you, our members. Maintaining our ROW is an important part of controlling costs. Fewer and shorter outages save money for everyone. When crews work in well-maintained areas, we can reduce risks for employees and equipment too—another way to keep costs low.

Safety, reliability, and cost: this is why we believe in ROW “spring cleaning.” If we compromise on one of these areas, it impacts the others. At Halifax EMC, we aren't willing to compromise. Maintaining our ROW is a priority for your safety, comfort, and pocketbook.

Halifax has contracted with Xylem Tree Experts for our R-O-W maintenance program. Currently R-O-W maintenance is being performed east of Scotland Neck. Halifax is conducting courtesy calls through interactive voice response (IVR) to notify members when R-O-W crews are working in their area.



Annual Meeting **2014**

The Committee on Nominations met Thursday, February 6, to make their nominations for Districts 3, 5 and 7. The following incumbents were nominated: Jerry Packer, District 3; Robert F. Harris, District 5 and Richard Greene, District 7.

Important Dates

March 14	Deadline for Petitions
April 23	Notice of Annual Meeting & Ballots Mailed
May 14	Deadline for Ballots*
May 15	Validation & Counting Ballots
May 17	Annual Meeting (Inborden/Enfield Middle School)

*Return your ballot by May 14 in order to be entered in a drawing for an electric service credit.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Pork Chops and Fried Cabbage

- 4 pork chops
- 1 head cabbage
- 1 cup whole mushrooms
- 1 lg. onion, chopped
- salt and paper to taste
- crushed red pepper to taste

In skillet, brown pork chops in a small amount of oil. Once browned, place cabbage, onions and mushrooms over chops - cover ingredients with water - place lid on skillet and cook on low heat for about 35 minutes. Season with salt, pepper and red pepper to taste.

Source: June Whithead, Bon Appetit by the Halifax EMC Volunteers in Action

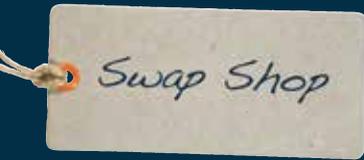


Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Programmable thermostats can save up to \$160 a year in energy costs. Match thermostat settings to your schedule: cold when you're away and warm when you're at home. In winter, set the thermostat to 68 degrees during the day (lower at night when you're snug in bed). By turning your thermostat down 10 to 15 degrees for at least eight hours, you can shave 5 to 15 percent from your heating costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com, U.S. Department of Energy



For sale: GE 32" color TV, \$50; GE 19" color TV, \$30; large oak-colored entertainment center, \$50. Call: 252-826-5194 (Scotland Neck).

Upcoming Grant and Scholarship Deadlines

Halifax Helps Grant Requests	March 28
Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships	March 31
Slade/Ellen Scholarships	April 1
Volunteers In Action Educational Opportunity Scholarship	July 1

For more information on these grant and scholarship opportunities, visit www.halifaxemc.com or call 252-445-5113, ext. 2034.



Play It Safe: Power Line Myths Debunked

Myth: Birds land on power lines, so that must mean the lines are safe to touch.

Fact: It is NEVER safe to touch a power line. Birds can sit on power lines without incurring electric shock because they are only touching one power line at a time. Electricity runs in a circuit, or a loop. If a bird were to touch another power line, a pole or the ground, a fatal dose of electricity would travel through the bird. A person would likely have some sort of path to the ground for electricity to complete its "loop," and that's why it is never safe for a person to try to touch a power line

Myth: As long as my ladder isn't metal, I can touch and get close to power lines without getting hurt.

Fact: Even wooden ladders will conduct electricity because they complete a path to the ground and they often hold moisture and metal parts. Be sure to always keep ladders at least 10 feet away from power lines.

Myth: The power line is down, but I'm not touching it, so I am safe.

Fact: Power lines can remain "live" even if they have fallen to the ground. This means electricity can travel through the ground, especially if it is wet, and into you. You do not have to be touching the wire to be electrocuted. Stay at least 300 feet away from downed power lines.

Reminder

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 9. Don't forget to turn your clocks forward 1 hour.



Calling All Youth Tour Alumni

For the past 50 years, students have attended the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington D.C., visiting monuments, meeting elected officials and learning about rural electrification.

Cooperatives such as Halifax EMC have sponsored youth to attend this amazing opportunity over the years. With the 50th anniversary of Youth Tour upon us, the search for alumni has begun. Are you one of the youth who toured the streets of D.C.? If you are, you can join the database of Youth Tourists at <http://ncelectriccooperatives.com/community/youthtour/alumni.aspx>. Tell us your story, where you are now, or what impact the trip made on you. Help us celebrate 50 years of a trip of a lifetime!